## CLAIMS

1. A bill acceptor having an opening for inserting a bill, said bill acceptor comprising:

a validator;

a transport assembly to transport bills inserted into said opening through said validator;

a bezel positioned proximate said opening, said bezel including a display surface having a plurality of visual display indicators; and

a processor to monitor the status and activity of said validator, said processor being connected to and controlling said display indicators.

2. The bill acceptor of Claim 1, wherein said display indicators include at least one of a $1 indicator, a $5 indicator, a $10 indicator, a $20 indicator, a $50 indicator and a $100 indicator for visually displaying denominations of valid notes accepted by the bill acceptor.

3. The bill acceptor of Claim 1, wherein said display indicators include a reject indicator for visually displaying when an unacceptable bill has been inserted and rejected by said validator.

4. The bill acceptor of Claim 1, wherein said display indicators include at least one of a system lock indicator, a counterfeit bill indicator, a transport jam indicator and a service indicator.

5. The bill acceptor of Claim 1, wherein said display indicators include at least one of a diagnostic indicator, a coin indicator, a machine service indicator and a note box full indicator.

6. The bill acceptor of Claim 1, wherein said bezel further comprises a runway surface and a display surface vertically mounted with respect to said runway surface.

7. The bill acceptor of Claim 1, wherein said plurality of display indicators are selected from the group consisting of incandescent lamps, light emitting diodes, electroluminescent emitters, liquid crystals, numeric alphanumeric and graphic displays, and mechanical semaphores.

8. The bill acceptor of Claim 1, wherein said processor controls said validator and said display indicators.

9. A method of displaying status and activity information of a bill acceptor comprising:

providing a validator having a processor for accumulating status and activity information;

providing a bezel having a plurality of display indicators; and

connecting said processor to said plurality of display indicators to control said display indicators and display information received from said validator.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein said information displayed by said display indicators includes denominations of notes inserted and accepted by said bill acceptor.

11. The method of Claim 9, wherein said information displayed by said display indicators is displayed by a device selected from the group consisting of incandescent lamps, light emitting diodes, electroluminescent emitters, liquid crystals, numeric alphanumeric and graphic displays, and mechanical semaphores.

12. The method of Claim 9, wherein said information displayed by said display indicators includes information about the status of said bill validator.

13. The method of Claim 10 including displaying said information by back-side illumination using a device selected from the group consisting of incandescent lamps, light emitting diodes, electroluminescent emitters, liquid crystals, numeric alphanumeric and graphic displays, and mechanical semaphores.

14. A method of displaying status and activity information of a gaming machine on an enhanced bezel comprising:

providing a validator processor in said gaming machine for accumulating said status and activity information;

providing multiple display indicators on said enhanced bezel; and

causing said validator processor to control said display indicators for displaying said information.

15. A bezel for a bill acceptor having an opening for inserting a bill, said bezel comprising:

a display surface having a plurality of visual display indicators; and

a processor to monitor the status and activity of said validator, said processor being connected to and controlling said display indicators of said bezel.

16. The bezel of Claim 15, wherein said display indicators include at least one of a $1 indicator, a $5 indicator, a $10 indicator, a $20 indicator, a $50 indicator and a $100 indicator for visually displaying denominations of valid notes accepted by the bill acceptor.

17. The bezel of Claim 15, wherein said bezel further comprises a runway surface and a display surface vertically mounted with respect to said runway surface.

18. The bezel of Claim 15, wherein said plurality of display indicators are selected from the group consisting of incandescent lamps, light emitting diodes, electroluminescent emitters, liquid crystals, numeric alphanumeric and graphic displays, and mechanical semaphores.

19. The bezel of Claim 16, wherein said plurality of display indicators are selected from the group consisting of incandescent lamps, light emitting diodes, electroluminescent emitters, liquid crystals, numeric alphanumeric and graphic displays, and mechanical semaphores.

20. Apparatus for displaying status and activity information of a bill acceptor attached to a host machine, comprising:

a validator having a processor for accumulating status and activity information; and

a plurality of display indicators connected to said processor of said validator, said processor controlling said display indicators to visually display information received from said validator.

21. The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein said information displayed by said display indicators includes denominations of notes inserted and accepted by said bill acceptor.

22. The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein said information displayed by said display indicators includes information about the status of said bill validator.

23. The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein said information displayed by said display indicators is displayed by a device selected from the group consisting of incandescent lamps, light emitting diodes, electroluminescent emitters, liquid crystals, numeric alphanumeric and graphic displays, and mechanical semaphores.

24. The apparatus of Claim 20 wherein said display indicators display said information by back-side illumination using a device selected from the group consisting of incandescent lamps, light emitting diodes, electroluminescent emitters, liquid crystals, numeric alphanumeric and graphic displays, and mechanical semaphores.